

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER**  
**APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2011**

**Instructions**

1. Please complete the entire form. **All fields are required.**
2. Please do not **bold**, underline, or *italicize* responses.
3. Request forms must be submitted as a Word document.
4. All completed request forms and any supplemental materials must be submitted via email to:  
[Appropriations.Blumenauer@mail.house.gov](mailto:Appropriations.Blumenauer@mail.house.gov)
5. Please do not send more than one request per email.
6. All completed request forms must be submitted no later than **Friday, February 26, 2010.**
7. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your request within 48 hours of submission, please contact Stephanie Cappa in Congressman Blumenauer's Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-4811.

*PLEASE NOTE: All appropriations requests submitted to Congressman Blumenauer's office will be made public on his website, as required by the House Committee on Appropriations.*

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**Project Details**

**1. Project title:**

SMART (Start Making A Reader Today)

**2. Organization name and address (the recipient of the funds):**

SMART, 219 NW 12th Avenue, Suite 203, Portland, OR 97209

**3. Contact information**

- a. **Project's primary contact:** Terry Shanley, CEO
- b. **Daytime telephone number/mobile phone number:** 503-937-4801
- c. **Email Address:** tshanley@getsmartoregon.org
- d. **Project location** (if different than organization's address): Throughout Oregon, including Congressman Blumenauer's district.

**4. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities.**

SMART envisions an Oregon where every child can read and is empowered to succeed. Our mission is to engage community volunteers to read one-on-one with K-3 children who need literacy support. Participating children also receive new books each month to keep and read with their families. Since 1992, SMART has delivered its proven literacy program to more than 100,000 children and has given away nearly 2 million books.

**5. Is this organization a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity?**

SMART is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization.

**6. From what federal agency and account are you requesting funds (Please be specific –e.g., Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account)?**

SMART received a \$95,000 federal appropriation in FY09 and a \$298,050 appropriation in FY04 through the FIE Programs of National Significance, Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement. We are requesting funds from the same source.

**7. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (please keep to 500 words or less.)**

Children are expected to read independently by third grade, yet the National Assessment of Educational Progress reports that more than 1 in 3 Oregon fourth graders reads below even the basic level. Research also shows that children who do not learn to read by third grade are more likely to struggle with reading as adults, drop out of school, be less successfully employed, and face incarceration. This all-too-common scenario has a devastating impact on the individual child and the community at large, and it demands immediate action.

To help address this crisis, SMART delivers weekly one-on-one reading support and new books to thousands of high-need K-3 children. A rigorous independent study by the Eugene Research Institute reveals that fifth graders who participated in the program are 60 percent more likely to reach state reading benchmarks than are similar students who did not participate. SMART students develop reading accuracy, fluency, and comprehension significantly faster and maintain these gains even after completing the program. By intervening early, we are empowering children to succeed, to pursue their dreams, and to be productive members of society. We are also strengthening our schools, our communities, and our entire state, whose social and economic prospects depend on strong, literate citizens.

**8. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?**

Children who do not learn to read by third grade are significantly more likely to struggle with reading as adults, drop out of school, be less successfully employed, and face incarceration. This all-too-common, community-wide crisis demands responsive, cost-effective action, which SMART, as previously described, provides.

**9. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?**

Yes.

**9a. If yes, please provide the fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.**

SMART received a \$95,000 federal appropriation in FY09 and a \$298,050 appropriation in FY04 through the FIE Programs of National Significance, Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement.

**Funding Details**

**10. Amount requested for this project:**

SMART requests a \$900,000 appropriation to help fund its proven literacy program for 3,000 children.

**11. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project (e.g., salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):**

\$542,135	Salaries for direct-service program staff
118,695	Books and program materials
<u>239,170</u>	Other direct program costs (volunteer background checks, evaluation, insurance, outreach, office expenses, recognition, recruitment, training, travel)
\$900,000	Total

**12. What is the total cost of the project?**

SMART's estimated budget for FY 2010 is \$2,761,507.

**13. Is this project scalable (i.e., If partial funding is awarded, will the organization still be able to use the funds in FY 2011)?**

As a broad-reaching community-based program, SMART is easily scalable. A federal appropriation of any amount would be applied to the program, but a smaller award would fund it for fewer children.

**14. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please be specific about funding sources and funding amounts)**

SMART has received past support and endorsements from a broad range of the Northwest's leading foundations, companies, and government agencies. The following have already made significant financial commitments to SMART for this fiscal year: Meyer Memorial Trust \$200,000; Portland Children's Levy \$73,000; The Collins Foundation \$50,000; Fred Meyer Foundation \$40,000; U.S. Bank \$25,000; Ackley Foundation \$20,000; JFR Foundation \$20,000; Whipple Fund of OCF \$20,000; Zephyr Charitable Foundation \$18,000; LP Brown Foundation \$15,000; NW Natural \$15,000; C. Giles Hunt Charitable Trust \$12,000; KMSB Foundation \$10,000; Express Employment Personnel \$10,000; Quest for Truth Foundation \$10,000; The Salem Foundation/Epping Fund \$10,000; Wells Fargo \$10,000; Lilly's Gift Foundation \$10,000; Anonymous Individual \$10,000.

**15. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project.**

SMART has been endorsed by several organizations that are helping to shape the debate about education priorities in Oregon and throughout the country.

The Chalkboard Project—a coalition of five Oregon charitable foundations working to improve K-12 public education—released a report endorsing SMART as a model program for helping struggling K-3 students get the extra literacy support they need. "Programs like Start Making A Reader Today work," the report says. "What they need is support. Districts and businesses must work together to support volunteer programs with time and money, so that all K-3 students who are reading below grade level get individual help." See [www.chalkboardproject.org](http://www.chalkboardproject.org) for more information.

The Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy, sponsored by the Council for Excellence in Government, has recognized SMART as one of five national K-12 intervention programs yielding positive results in well-designed, randomized, controlled trials. The Coalition cites SMART as a "low-cost

intervention (that) has sizable positive impacts on students' reading ability." More information is available at [www.evidencebasedprograms.org](http://www.evidencebasedprograms.org).

SMART is also the recipient of a 2009 Oregon Ethics in Business Award, taking top honors in the nonprofit category. Co-sponsored by the Rotary Club of Portland, Atkinson Graduate School of Management of Willamette University and the *Portland Business Journal*, the awards recognize organizations and individuals that "have demonstrated ethical business practice in its broadest interpretation: in the workplace, the marketplace, the environment and the community."

**Please return this form no later than Friday, February 26, 2010 via email to:**

**Appropriations.Blumenauer@mail.house.gov**

***Washington, D.C. Appropriations Contact for Rep. Earl Blumenauer: Stephanie Cappa, 202-225-4811, [Stephanie.Cappa@mail.house.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Cappa@mail.house.gov)***

***Oregon Appropriations Contact for Rep. Earl Blumenauer: Sarah Masterson, 503-231-2300, [Sarah.Masterson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Sarah.Masterson@mail.house.gov)***